Health care centres in desert and tribal areas

3530. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of Health Care Centres in the desert and tribal areas of the country are inadequate to provide basic health facilities to the poor people of such areas;

(b) if so, whether Government have formulated any specific scheme for tribal areas of the country; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. **RAJA):** (a) The Government is aware of the shortage of Sub Centres, Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres in the tribal areas of the country. There are 21249 Sub-Centres, 3540 Primary Health Centres and 588 Community Health Centres functioning in tribal areas against requirements of 26243, 3999 and 870 respectively.

(b) and (c) Department of Family Welfare has recently formulated a strategy for RCH Programme in the tribal areas.

In the strategy, initially 9 States have been selected for Pilot Projects for Primitive Tribal Groups and Non-Primitive Tribal Groups.The States are Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Gujarat. The States of West Bengal, Orissa, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra have initiated action for preparation of the Pilot Projects, under Sector Investment Programme.

North-Eastem States, including Sikkim, have also been included under Sector Invesetment Programme.JThe Projects have been initiated in the States of Assam, Mizoram, Meghalaya and Manipur. Action for the preparation of Project proposals has been initiated in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura and Sikkim. For Nagaland State, the process of constitution of the Committee has started.

Appointment of Medical Officers-IU to promote Ayurveda in UP

3531. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased fo state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Medical Officers-Ill were appointed to promote Ayurveda by Government of UP but the post was abolished later on;